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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples**

(covering its work during 1998)

Rapporteur: Mr. Fayssal **Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic)

Chapters III and IV

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* A/53/150

** The present document contains chapters III and IV of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued under the symbol A/53/23 (Part I). Other chapters of the report will be issued under the symbol A/53/23 (Parts III to IX). The complete report will be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/53/23).

98-25780 (E) 230998

Chapter III
Dissemination of information on decolonization

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of the dissemination of information on decolonization as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/L.1871).

2. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1487th meeting, on 29 June 1998.

3. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 52/79 of 10 December 1997 on the dissemination of information on decolonization, and resolution 52/78 of the same date on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

4. The Special Committee held consultations with the representatives of the Department of Public Information and of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat at its 1487th meeting (see A/AC.109/SR.1487).

5. At the same meeting, the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee drew attention to a draft resolution prepared by the Chairman, contained in document A/AC.109/L.1872.

6. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1872 without a vote (A/AC.109/2120).

Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights

7. The Special Committee observed the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights during its 1486th meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 May 1998.

8. At the 1486th meeting, the Acting Chairman and the Secretary-General made statements. A statement was also made by the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (see A/AC.109/SR.1486).

9. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Mauritius (on behalf of the African Group of States), Indonesia (on behalf of the Asian Group of States) and Brazil (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group of States and also on behalf of the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR)) as well as the observer delegation of Palestine to the United Nations (see A/AC.109/SR.1486).

10. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chief Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Montserrat (see A/AC.109/SR.1486).

11. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of Portugal and Jamaica. Statements were made in the exercise of the right of reply by the representatives of Indonesia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Brazil and Portugal (see A/AC.109/SR.1486).

B. Recommendation of the Special Committee

12. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2120) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1487th meeting, on 29 June 1998, appears below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly:

Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,[1]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 52/79 of 10 December 1997,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to achieving complete decolonization by the year 2000,

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General in accordance with the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat;

2. *Considers it important* to continue its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options of self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to take into account the suggestions of the Special Committee to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, *inter alia*:

(a) To continue to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To maintain a working relationship with the appropriate regional and intergovernmental organizations, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, by holding periodic consultations and exchanging information;

(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to continue to extend their cooperation in the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee to follow the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

Notes

[1] The present chapter.

Chapter IV

Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of sending visiting missions to Territories as appropriate. The Special Committee further decided that the item should be considered in its plenary meetings and, as appropriate, in connection with its examination of specific Territories.

2. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1487th and 1499th meetings, on 29 June and 11 August 1998.

3. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, the pertinent provisions of resolution 52/78 of 10 December 1997 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and resolution 52/77 of the same date relating to specific Territories. The Special Committee also considered Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

4. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it the report of the Acting Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1882 and Add.1) on his consultations with representatives of the administering Powers, undertaken in accordance with paragraph 4 of the resolution adopted by the Committee at its 1474th meeting, on 16 June 1997.[1]

5. At the 1499th meeting, on 11 August 1998, the Chairman drew attention to his report on the item (A/AC.109/L.1882), as well as a draft resolution prepared by the Chairman, contained in document A/AC.109/L.1884.

6. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1884 without a vote (A/AC.109/2130) (see para. 9).

7. In addition to the consideration of this question, the Special Committee considered the specific Territories referred to it, taking into account the relevant provisions of the General Assembly resolutions mentioned in paragraph 3 above, as well as previous decisions of the Special Committee relating to the question.

8. By adopting at its 1496th meeting, on 13 July 1998, a consolidated resolution on 10 small Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2128) as well as resolutions on Tokelau (A/AC.109/2124) and Guam (A/AC.109/2129), the Special Committee endorsed a number of conclusions and recommendations concerning the sending of visiting missions to Territories, as reflected in chapter X of the present report (A/53/23 (Part VI)), relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, and chapters XI and XII of the present report (Parts VII-VIII), relating, respectively, to Tokelau and Guam.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

9. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2130) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1499th meeting is reproduced below:

Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Having examined the report of the Acting Chairman on the question,[2]

Recalling, the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand, as an administering Power, in the work of the Special Committee, and that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a visiting mission was dispatched to Tokelau in July 1994,[3]

Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory of Guam, noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific regional seminar that a visiting mission be sent to Guam, and taking note of resolution No. 464 (LS), adopted by the twenty-third Guam legislature on 19 July 1996, in which it requested the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory,

Welcoming the invitation extended at the Pacific regional seminar held at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998, by the Governor of American Samoa to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission,

Welcoming the commencement of informal dialogue between the Special Committee and some administering Powers,

1. *Stresses* the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

3. *Requests* the administering Powers to consider new approaches in the work of the Special Committee, and calls upon them to cooperate with the Special Committee in its efforts;

4. *Requests* its Acting Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate;

5. *Also requests* its Acting Chairman to enter into consultations with the administering Power of Guam with a view to facilitating the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory.

Notes

[1] See A/52/23 (Part II), chap. IV, para. 10. The complete report of the Special Committee will be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/52/23).

[2] A/AC.109/L.1882.

[3] A/AC.109/2009.

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Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples**

(covering its work during 1998)

Rapporteur: Mr. Fayssal **Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic)

Chapters V and VI

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* A/53/150.

** The present document contains chapters V and VI of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued under the symbol A/53/23 (Part I). Chapters II and X also relate to the present chapters. Other chapters of the report will be issued under the symbol A/52/23 (Parts II and IV-IX). The complete report will be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/53/23).

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Chapter V

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up as a separate item the question of economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to consider it in its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/L.1871).

2. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998.

3. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including, in particular, resolution 52/72 of 10 December 1997 on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee also took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 on the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and resolution 52/78 of 10 December 1997 on the implementation of the Declaration. Additionally, the Special Committee took into consideration the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the last preambular paragraph of the resolution it adopted on 10 July 1998 (see para. 8).

4. In 1994, the Special Committee, in keeping with its consistent goal of limiting documentation and streamlining its report to the General Assembly, recommended to the Assembly that, in preparing the general working papers on the Territories, the Secretariat should, where applicable, incorporate under separate headings those sections relating to economic and other activities which affect the interests of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and those on military activities and arrangements in those Territories. By adopting resolution 49/89 of 16 December 1994, the Assembly approved, *inter alia*, that recommendation.

5. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat containing, *inter alia*, information on economic conditions, with particular reference to foreign economic activities, in the following Territories: Anguilla, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands (A/AC.109/2102, 2106-2107, 2109, 2117).

6. At the 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998, the Acting Chairman drew attention to the various working papers prepared by the Secretariat which contained references to economic and other activities which affected the interests of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/L.1876/Rev.1).

7. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1876/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 8).

B. Recommendation of the Special Committee

8. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2125) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998, appears below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Activities of foreign economic and other interests which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing territories",

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,[1]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all its other relevant resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991,

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the economic stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Conscious also that foreign economic investment, when done in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories and could also make a valid contribution to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence

to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories;

3. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. *Reaffirms its concern* about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, as well as their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. *Affirms* the need to avoid any economic and other activities which adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. *Reiterates* that the damaging exploitation and plundering of the marine and other natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, is a threat to the integrity and prosperity of those Territories;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded;

9. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

12. *Appeals* to the mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. *Decides* to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, including the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

Notes

[1] The present chapter

Chapter VI

Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up as a separate item the question of military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers on Territories under their administration and to consider it in its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/L.1871).

2. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998.

3. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 52/78 of 10 December 1997, in paragraph 9 of which the Assembly called upon the administering Powers to eliminate the remaining military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly, and urged them not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States. The Special Committee also took into account Assembly decision 52/417 of 10 December 1997, in paragraph 8 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-third session. Further, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 on the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

4. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat containing, *inter alia*, information on military activities and arrangements in Bermuda and Guam (A/AC.109/2109 and 2113).

5. At the 1495th meeting, on 10 July, the Chairman drew attention to a draft decision on the item (A/AC.109/L.1877).

6. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the draft decision (A/AC.109/2126), without a vote (see A/AC.109/SR.1496).

B. Recommendation of the Special Committee

7. The text of the decision (A/AC.109/2126) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1495th meeting, on 10 July 1998, appears below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration

1. The General Assembly, having considered the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to an item on the agenda of the Special Committee entitled "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration",[1] and recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and all other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to military activities in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, reaffirms its

strong conviction that military bases and installations in the Territories concerned could constitute an obstacle to the exercise by the people of those Territories of their right to self-determination, and reiterates its strong views that existing bases and installations, which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, should be withdrawn.

2. Aware of the presence of such bases and installations in some of those Territories, the General Assembly urges the administering Powers concerned to continue to take all necessary measures not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States.

3. The General Assembly reiterates its concern that military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration might run counter to the rights and interests of the colonial peoples concerned, especially their right to self-determination and independence. The Assembly once again calls upon the administering Powers concerned to terminate such activities and to eliminate such military bases in compliance with its relevant resolutions.

4. The General Assembly reiterates that the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories and areas adjacent thereto should not be used for nuclear testing, dumping of nuclear wastes or deployment of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

5. The General Assembly deplores the continued alienation of land in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in the small island Territories of the Pacific and Caribbean regions, for military installations. The large-scale utilization of the local resources for this purpose could adversely affect the economic development of the Territories concerned.

6. The General Assembly takes note of the decision of some of the administering Powers to close or downsize some of those military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

7. The General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to continue to inform world public opinion of those military activities and arrangements in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories which constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

8. The General Assembly requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

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Items 90, 88 and 18 of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples**

(covering its work during 1997)

Rapporteur: Mr. Fayssal **Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic)

Chapters VII and VIII

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Chapter VII

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

2. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1500th meeting, on 12 August 1998.

3. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/73 of 10 December 1997 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, in paragraph 20 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-third session. The Special Committee also took into account all other resolutions adopted by the Assembly on this subject, including resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsing the plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

4. The Special Committee also took into account the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/38 of 30 July 1998. In paragraph 15 of that resolution, the Council drew the attention of the Special Committee to the resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the Council's substantive session of 1998 (see E/1998/SR.46). Furthermore, the Special Committee took into consideration the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the fourth preambular paragraph of the resolution it adopted on 12 August 1998 (see also para. 11 below, fifth preambular paragraph).

5. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a report of the Secretary-General (A/53/130 and Corr.1), submitted in response to the request addressed to him by the General Assembly in paragraph 19 of resolution 52/73, containing information on the action taken by organizations of the United Nations system in implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations referred to above.

6. At the 1500th meeting, on 12 August 1998, the Acting Chairman drew the Special Committee's attention to the relevant documentation, including the report of the Secretary-General (A/53/130 and Corr.1), and to the related reports of the Acting Chairman of the Committee and the President of the Economic and Social Council (A/AC.109/L.1880 and E/1998/76), as well as to a draft resolution submitted by him on the item (A/AC.109/L.1881).

7. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken by the Special Committee at its 1498th meeting, Mr. Carlyle Corbin made a statement on behalf of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands (see A/AC.109/SR.1500).

8. At the same meeting, the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Cuba, Antigua and Barbuda and China made statements concerning new elements relating to the draft resolution on the item and the modalities for their consideration. The Secretary of the Committee and the Acting Chairman made statements (see A/AC.109/SR.1500).

9. At the same meeting, the Special Committee, on the proposal of the Acting Chairman, took note of the statements made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Cuba, Antigua and Barbuda and China and decided that the Acting Chairman would circulate a non-paper containing new elements for a draft resolution before the commencement of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly (see A/AC.109/SR.1500).

10. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1881 without a vote (A/AC.109/2132).

B. Recommendation of the Special Committee

11. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2132) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1500th meeting, on 12 August, appears below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly:

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having also considered the reports submitted on the item by the Secretary-General[1] and the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council,[2]

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee relating to the item,[3]

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/66 of 25 July 1997,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all the appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of assistance programmes to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the Non-Self-Governing small island Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/73 of 10 December 1997 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of its Acting Chairman on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council,[2] and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;[4]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

5. *Reaffirms also* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanoes, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories in fighting drug trafficking, money laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) The illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

10. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

11. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. *Welcomes* the continued initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. *Encourages* Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

14. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant

meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

15. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

17. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this issue and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

18. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the necessary measures to implement the resolution, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

Notes

[1] A/53/130 and Corr.1.

[2] A/AC.109/L.1880.

[3] The present chapter.

[4] E/1998/76.

Chapter VIII

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

2. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1487th and 1493rd meetings, on 29 June and 7 July 1998.

3. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions, in particular resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, by which the Assembly decided, *inter alia*, to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and to transfer certain of its functions to the Special Committee, and paragraph 5 of resolution 52/71 of 10 December 1997, in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-third session. Furthermore, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions 52/78 of 10 December 1997, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

4. At the 1487th meeting, on 29 June, the Acting Chairman drew attention to the draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/L.1873 (see A/AC.109/SR.1487).

5. At the same meeting, the representative of Indonesia made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Portugal and Indonesia (see A/AC.109/SR.1487). Following a statement by the representative of China, the Committee decided to continue its consideration of the item at a later meeting.

6. At the 1493rd meeting, on 7 July, the Acting Chairman made a statement. At the same meeting, following statements made by the representatives of China and Papua New Guinea, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1873 without a vote (A/AC.109/2123).

B. Recommendation of the Special Committee

7. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2123), adopted by the Special Committee at its 1493rd meeting, on 7 July 1998, appears below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly:

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations[1] and the action taken by the Special Committee in respect of that information,

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 52/71 of 10 December 1997, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

1. *Approves* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 *e* of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

Notes

[1] The present chapter.

[2] A/53/263.

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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples**

(covering its work during 1998)

Rapporteur: Mr. Fayssal **Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic)

Chapter IX

East Timor, Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara

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* A/53/150

** The present document contains chapter IX of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued under the symbol A/53/23 (Part I). Other chapters of the report will be issued under the symbol A/53/23 (Parts II-IV, VI-IX). The complete report will be issued subsequently as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/53/23).

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A. Introduction

1. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of East Timor, Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara as separate items and to consider them in its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/L.1871).

2. The present chapter contains an account of the consideration by the Special Committee of the Territories (sect. B). It also sets forth the recommendation on the question of New Caledonia to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session (sect. C).

3. In its consideration of the questions, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions 52/78 and 52/79 of 10 December 1997 and decisions 52/402 and 52/419 of 19 September and 10 December 1997 respectively, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

4. In its capacity as the administering Power concerned, and in accordance with established procedures, Portugal participated in the work of the Special Committee in relation to East Timor.

B. Consideration by and decisions of the Special Committee

1. East Timor

5. The Special Committee considered the question of East Timor at its 1488th to 1491st meetings, from 30 June to 2 July 1998.

6. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2111 and Add.1).

7. At its 1487th meeting, on 29 June 1998, the Special Committee granted requests for hearing from the following petitioners and heard their statements at the meetings indicated below:

1488th meeting

Mr. Eric Gustafson, on behalf of East Timor Action Network/United States
Mrs. Rodica Pintea-Austin, Member London University
Mr. Abílio Araújo, Timor Foundation for Reconciliation & Development
Mr. Rogério Pereira, Timorese Youth for Reconciliation
Mr. Azancot de Menezes, Associação Socialista de Timor
Mr. Antonio Tavares, SOS – Associação de Defesa dos Angolanos
Mr. José Ramos-Horta, National Council of Timorese Resistance
Mr. Augusto N. Miclat, Jr., Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor

1489th meeting

Professor Richard Tanter, Kyoto East Timor Association
Mr. Arsenio Paixo Bano, on behalf of the British Coalition for East Timor
Mr. Max Surjadinata, East Timor Alert Network/Canada
Mr. Basilio Dias Araujo, Indonesian Association of British Alumni of East Timor
Mr. Robert Murken, on behalf of Pax Christi International
Ms. Masako Kimura, on behalf of Free East Timor Japan Coalition
Ms. Maria Lurdes Soares, East Timor Cultural, Ethnic and Research Centre

Mr. Valente de Araujo
Mr. Matthew Traub, on behalf of Ms. Nita M. Lowey, Member of the United States Congress
Mr. João Carrascalão, Timorese Democratic Union
Mr. José Luis Guterres, Frente Revolucionaria da Timor-Leste Independente (FRETILIN)
Mr. Mari Alkatiri, Professor, University of Eduardo Mondlane
Ms. Miranda Sissons, on behalf of Hobart East Timor Committee
Mr. Cipriano Magno
Ms. Vanessa Ramos, on behalf of International Platform of Jurists for East Timor
Mr. Stevanus Waisapy, Solidaritas Pemuda Indonesia

1490th meeting

Mr. Carlos Alga, Rede de Colidaridad Internacional
Mr. Carlos de Fatima
Mr. Abilio Sereno, Committee of the Peace and Development in East Timor
Mr. Gil da Costa Alves
Mr. Augostinho Goncalves, National Committee of Indonesian Youth in East Timor
Mr. Ramidan Allan Purba, Forum Pemuda-Pemudi Indonesia
Mr. John Miller, on behalf of Parliamentarians for East Time
Mr. Samsu Mafudi, The Indonesian American, Inc.
Ms. Eva Toth, on behalf of Amnesty International
Mr. Nuno Krus Abecasis, Member of Parliament, Social Democratic Center-Popular Party
Mr. António Barbosa de Melo, Member of Parliament, Social Democratic Party
Mr. Carlos Manuel Luís, Member of Parliament, Socialist Party

1491st meeting

Mr. João Cerveira Corregedor da Fonseca, Member of Parliament, Communist Party
Mr. Tom Kellogg, on behalf of Human Rights Watch/Asia
Sister Mary Therese Plante, on behalf of Catholic Institute for International Relations and Japanese Catholic Council for Justice and Peace
Mr. Filomeno de Jesus Hornay
Mr. Soenarto S. Atmodjo, Chairman, Forum Nusantara
Mr. Eliot Hoffman, on behalf of Australian Coalition for East Timor
Mr. Frank Fitzgerald, on behalf of East Timor – Ireland Solidarity Committee
Mr. Ahmad Z. Hadi Wayarabi, Indonesian Students Association
Mr. Grover Joseph Rees, on behalf of Mr. Christopher Smith, Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, United States House of Representatives
Mr. John Miller, East Timor International Support Center of Darwin, Australia
Mr. Constancio Días Pinto, National Resistance of East Timorese Students

8. At the 1488th meeting, on 30 June 1998, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Brazil and Sao Tome and Principe had expressed the wish to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the item. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

9. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe. The representative of Indonesia made a further statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1488).

10. At the 1489th meeting, on 1 July 1998, the representative of Indonesia made a statement on a point of order.

11. At the 1489th and 1490th meetings, on 1 and 2 July 1998, the representatives of Portugal and Indonesia made further statements (see A/AC.109/SR.1489-1490).

12. At the 1491st meeting, on 2 July 1998, the representative of Brazil, on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe) made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1491). The representative of Portugal also made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1491).

13. At the same meeting, statements in the exercise of right of reply were made by the representatives of Indonesia and Portugal (see A/AC.109/SR.1491).

Decision of the Special Committee

14. At its 1491st meeting, on 2 July 1998, on the proposal of the Acting Chairman, the Special Committee decided to continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-third session.

2. Gibraltar

15. The Special Committee considered the question of Gibraltar at its 1478th meeting, on 29 June 1998.

16. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (see A/AC.109/2112).

17. At the 1487th meeting, the Acting Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Spain had requested to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the question. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

18. At the same meeting, with the consent of the Special Committee, Mr. Peter Caruana, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1487). The representative of Spain also made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1487).

Decision of the Special Committee

19. At its 1487th meeting, on 29 June 1998, on the proposal of the Acting Chairman, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-third session and, in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

3. New Caledonia

20. The Special Committee considered the question of New Caledonia at its 1493rd, 1495th and 1496th meetings, from 7 to 13 July 1998.

21. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2114).

22. In accordance with a decision taken at the 1493rd meeting, Mr. Roch Wamytan, Front de libération nationale Kanak socialiste (FLNKS), made a statement at the 1495th meeting of the Special Committee, on 10 July 1998.

23. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of China, Papua New Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji and the Syrian Arab Republic.

24. At the same meeting, the representative of France, the administering Power, made a statement.

25. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided to postpone the consideration of the item to a later stage of its work.

26. At the 1496th meeting, on 13 July 1998, the representative of Papua New Guinea introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1878/Rev.1.

27. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1878/Rev.1 without a vote (A/AC.109/2127).

Decision of the Special Committee

28. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2127) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1496th meeting, on 13 July 1998 appears in section C in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

4. Western Sahara

29. The Special Committee considered the question of Western Sahara at its 1488th meeting, on 30 June 1998.

30. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2118).

31. At its 1487th meeting, on 29 June, the Special Committee granted a request for hearing to Mr. Moulud Said of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO). Mr. Said made a statement at the 1488th meeting of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/SR.1488).

Decision of the Special Committee

32. At its 1488th meeting, on 30 June 1998, on the proposal of the Acting Chairman, the Special Committee decided, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-third session and in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

33. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1484th and 1496th meetings, on 6 February and 13 July 1998, respectively, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation on the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia,[1]

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-discrimination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Welcoming the strengthening of the process of review of the Matignon Accords[2] through the increased frequency of coordination meetings,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

1. *Welcomes* the significant developments that have taken place in New Caledonia as exemplified by the signing of the Nouméa Accord of 5 May 1998[3] between the representatives of New Caledonia and the Government of France;

2. *Notes* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord aimed at taking more broadly into account the Kanak identity in the political and social organization of New Caledonia, and also those provisions of the Accord relating to control of immigration and protection of local employment;

3. *Notes* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations (such as international organizations in the Pacific region, the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization) according to their regulations;

4. *Notes* the agreement between the signatories of the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations;

5. *Invites* the administering Power to consider inviting to New Caledonia, at the time the new institutions are established, a mission of information which could comprise representatives of countries of the Pacific region;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Power to transmit information regarding the political, economic and social situation of New Caledonia to the Secretary-General;

7. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia and building on the positive outcome of the review of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

8. *Invites* all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians according to the letter

and spirit of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords, which are based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

9. *Welcomes* measures that have been taken to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields, and encourages further such measures in accordance with the spirit of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords;

10. *Also welcomes* the importance attached by the parties to the Matignon and Nouméa Accords to greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

11. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Melanesian Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous culture of New Caledonia;

12. *Notes* the positive initiatives aimed at protecting the natural environment of New Caledonia, notably the "Zonéco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

13. *Acknowledges* the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French and territorial authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the countries members of the South Pacific Forum;

14. *Welcomes*, in particular, in this regard, continuing high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region and high-level visits by delegations from New Caledonia to countries members of the South Pacific Forum;

15. *Decides* to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;

16. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue the examination of this question at its next session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

Notes

[1] The present chapter

[2] See A/AC.109/1000, paras. 9-14.

[3] See A/AC.109/2114, annex.